

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:252

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001

ERADICATION OF LEPROSY, PLAGUE AND T.B.

B.K. PARTHASARATHI;P.D. ELANGO VAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether leprosy, plague and T.B. have been controlled in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any realistic assessment of the implementation of various control projects has been made;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken to eradicate these diseases and rehabilitate the leprosy patients; and
- (f) the details of the cases detected under the Modified Leprosy Elimination campaign, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 252 FOR 14.3.2001

The number of leprosy cases in India has come down from 4 million in 1981 to 0.4 million in December, 2000 and the prevalence rate has dropped from 57 per 10,000 population in 1981 to 4.03 per 10,000 population in December, 2000. The deformity rate among new cases has also come down from over 7% in 1993-94 to current 2.58%. Ten States of Nagaland, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan have achieved elimination levels. Five States of Assam, Gujarat, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Union Territory of Lakshadweep are very close to achieving this. The disease, at present, is mainly endemic in the 7 states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh.

An outbreak of human Plague affected Beed (Maharashtra) and Surat (Gujarat) during 1994. The 1994 outbreak was controlled immediately and since then no human plague cases have been reported in the country.

The number of TB cases in the country over the last several years has been more or less static. The new cases are approximately 2 million every year. To control TB, Government of India had launched National TB Control Programme (NTCP) in 1962 with the objective of detecting as many cases as possible and effectively treat them so as to render infectious cases non infectious. After a review of the programme in 1992, a revised strategy, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) was launched in 1993 with an aim to cure 85% of new sputum smear (+ve) cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. RNTCP has so far been implemented successfully with achievement of over 80% cure rate. Coverage under RNTCP has expanded rapidly in the last two years and is expected to reach 500 million by 2002.

An independent evaluation of the National Leprosy Elimination Programme was conducted in the year 2000. The main findings were:

The prevalence of leprosy has come down from 10.7 per 10,000 in 1994 to 5.2 per 10,000 population in March, 2000. The percentage of leprosy cases receiving treatment has increased from 98.5% to 99.7%.

Due to increased public awareness and campaign approach, the new leprosy case detection rate has increased from 5.6 per 10,000 in 1993-94 to 7.0 per 10,000 in 1999-2000.

The percentage of districts with registered prevalence rate of more than 10 per 10,000 in High endemic states, has come down from 52.8% in 1995 to 10.8% in 1999. Similar declining trends are seen in other States also. MDT services are available in all the districts and the quality of services provided has improved.

Following the outbreak of Plague in 1994, Government of India constituted a Technical Advisory Committee to look into the matter. One of the important recommendations of the Committee was strengthening of disease surveillance. The Government of India

launched National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases on a pilot basis during 1997-98. Presently, the same is in operation in 45 districts of 20 States. It is being expanded to cover 100 districts during the remaining 2 years of 9th Plan period.

The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) has been reviewed jointly by Government of India and WHO in February, 2000. It was found in the review that the implementation of Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) in India has been successful. The diagnosis is accurate and drug supply regular.

Under the Leprosy programme, free Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) services are provided in all the districts of the country. In endemic States the services are provided by regular and contractual leprosy staff. In the low and moderate States, the leprosy services are being integrated with general health care.

Grant-in-aid is given to NGOs to provide survey, education and treatment services in areas allotted by State Governments. In order to provide medical rehabilitation, leprosy affected patients, a Reconstructed Surgery Scheme (RSS) is in operation under which NGOs are reimbursed at a fixed rate for providing reconstruction surgery services for leprosy related deformities. For social rehabilitation of leprosy cured persons, aid is given to NGOs by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under the Scheme titled 'Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities'.

Two rounds of Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaign (MLEC) to detect hidden cases of leprosy have yielded 4.63 lakh cases in 1998-99 and 2.12 lakh cases in 1999-2000 respectively. Special Action Project for Elimination of Leprosy (SAPEL) are conducted in tribal, hilly and difficult to approach areas.

The statement giving details of cases detected under the Modified Leprosy Elimination cases State-wise is Annexed.

ANNEXURE

NUMBER OF CASES DETECTED UNDER MLEC

S.No.	States/UTs 1997-98-99	1st MLEC 1999-2000	2nd MLEC
1.	Uttar Pradesh	57247	41016
2.	Madhya Pradesh	20248	11272
3.	Orissa	62844	27197
4.	Bihar	206495	80496
5.	West Bengal	39275	17167
6.	Gujarat	3648	712
7.	Assam	4054	1081
8.	Andhra Pradesh	18742	7919
9.	Maharashtra	20858	8352
10.	Tamil Nadu	12796	12603
11.	Karnataka	9881	3752
12.	Kerala	1834	315
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	153	53
14.	Goa	72	16
15.	Manipur	222	NA
16.	Meghalaya	194	NA
17.	Mizoram	89	26
18.	Nagaland	26	30
19.	Haryana	302	NA
20.	Punjab	629	120
21.	Rajasthan	1009	8
22.	Sikkim	61	NA
23.	Himachal Pradesh	155	NA
24.	Tripura	392	NA
25.	Jammu Division	857	NA

26.	Kashmir Division	152	NA
27.	A&N Islands	NR	NA
28.	Chandigarh	112	NA
29.	D&N Haveli	149	NA
30.	Daman & Diu	79	NA
31.	Delhi	723	NA
32.	Lakshadweep	42	NA
33.	Pondicherry	254	568

Total		463594	212703
-------	--	--------	--------

Note NR - Not Reported, NA - Not Applicable.